

Act, as well as Roll Call 80, final passage of H.R. 644.

I was also unable to vote on Roll Call 81, the motion to recommit H.R. 636, America's Small Business Tax Relief Act, as well as Roll Call 82, final Passage of H.R. 636.

Had I been present, I would have voted for both the motions to recommit and voted against H.R. 644 and H.R. 636 on final passage.

HONORING THOMAS H. WARREN,  
SR.

**HON. BRAD ASHFORD**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 27, 2015*

Mr. ASHFORD. Mr. Speaker, as we close out Black History Month, I want to recognize a leader in my community in Nebraska, Thomas H. Warren, Sr., the President and CEO of the Urban League of Nebraska. Prior to assuming his leadership role at ULN, Mr. Warren served for 24 years with the Omaha Police Department, serving 4 years as the Chief of Police—the first African American to assume this position. Mr. Warren transformed the struggling Urban League of Nebraska into an organization serving the public's interest and advocating for social justice. Today, ULN provides programs in youth development, employment services and violence prevention—services that were not previously offered in our community. Thomas Warren's record of public service is extensive, but it is safe to say that Omaha would not be the same without him. He has been recognized on both the local and national level for his dedication to our community, and it is with great honor that I recognize him here on the House floor. On behalf of our community, I want to say thank you to Mr. Thomas Warren, Sr.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ROBERT HURT**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 27, 2015*

Mr. HURT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for Roll Call vote #95, a recorded vote on the Kennedy of Massachusetts Part B Amendment No. 1 to H.R. 5. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

I was not present for Roll Call vote #96, a recorded vote on the Grothman of Wisconsin Part B Amendment No. 2 to H.R. 5. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

I was not present for Roll Call vote #97, a recorded vote on the Castro of Texas Part B Amendment No. 6 to H.R. 5. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

I was not present for Roll Call vote #98, a recorded vote on the Quigley of Illinois Part B Amendment No. 9 to H.R. 5. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

I was not present for Roll Call vote #99, a recorded vote on the Moore of Wisconsin Part B Amendment No. 13 to H.R. 5. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

#### STUDENT SUCCESS ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2015*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5) to support State and local accountability for public education, protect State and local authority, inform parents of the performance of their children's schools, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 5, the "Student Success Act," which would harm the education of our nation's youth.

I thank Chairman KLINE, Ranking Member SCOTT, and all the members of the Committee on Education and the Workforce for their work to improve education for our nation's children.

Unfortunately, the bill before the House for consideration, should it become law, would harm our most vulnerable children, including those who attend urban and rural schools, and special needs children who need equal access to an excellent education.

The bill as it exists now allows for the establishment of separate, lower standards for students with developmental disabilities.

As a result of these standards, opportunities available for students with disabilities later in life would suffer considerably.

H.R. 5 converts much of the funding currently directed at English learners, migrant students, or at-risk students into block-grants, which would enable those funds to be spent outside the target populations.

Support for these students would also be eroded by suspending requirements that school districts improve the English-speaking ability of such students.

One of the most dangerous provisions of this bill is the proposal to allow "portability" of funds under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

This proposal, if enacted, would allow states to redirect funds away from districts with the highest concentrations of poverty, and into more affluent districts with less need for such support.

This proposal is especially harmful for Houston school districts, where an estimated 31.5% of children live below the poverty line. The vast majority of these children are Black or Hispanic.

As legislators, as Americans, we have a generational responsibility to enhance the lives of those who will follow us, especially the most vulnerable.

It is sobering to me, as the founder and co-chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus and someone who has long advocated on behalf of young people from all backgrounds, to see a bill that would have such a negative impact on the very children who need our help the most.

In addition to these sad truths, the bill currently under consideration would strike a devastating blow to our schools' ability to provide the variety of programs that our children deserve.

It repeals dedicated funding for programs such as student safety, after and summer school programming, STEM education, education technology, arts education, literacy and

block-grants support, forcing high-need districts to choose between funding vital services.

It should not be overlooked that one of these programs that is considered expendable is STEM-focused education, an area of importance both nationally and to my constituents in Houston.

The Houston region is one of the most important industrial bases in the world and was recently ranked the No. 1 US manufacturing city by Manufacturers' News Inc.

Houston is also home to the largest medical complex in the world—the Texas Medical Center—and provides clinical health care, research and education at its 54 institutions.

These jobs, and truly the middle class of this decade as a whole, are dependent on workers who get the right STEM education and job training today.

Brookings' Metropolitan Policy Program's report "The Hidden STEM Economy" reported that in 2011, 26 million jobs or 20 percent of all occupations required knowledge in 1 or more STEM areas.

The same report stressed that fully half of all STEM jobs are available to workers without a 4 year degree and these jobs pay on average \$53,000 a year, which is 10 percent higher than jobs with similar education requirements.

To eliminate federal funding aimed at enhancing STEM education is to cripple an entire generation of America's youth, leaving them without skills that may be essential in securing their own future and the economic prosperity of our nation.

Finally, it must be addressed that the defining characteristic of our primary and secondary education system has been to prepare our students for college.

H.R. 5 does not contain any provisions that states consult with institutes of higher education in order to ensure that their academic standards are consistent with what will be demanded of those students once they graduate.

As a result, many students, even after receiving a high school diploma, will find themselves unprepared to pursue a college degree if they choose to.

Furthermore, the bill eliminates the current requirements that districts take action when their schools are under resourced and unable to meet the needs of all students.

Together with the lack of consideration and support for at-risk and low-income youth, this will result in those students being marginalized and denied educational opportunity rather than given the support and resources they so desperately need.

There is no greater testament to the substantial and wide-ranging harm done by this bill than the coalition of organizations that have voiced their opposition, including:

National Education Association  
American Federation of Teachers  
Committee for Education Funding  
Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD)

American Association of People with Disabilities

Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights

NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund  
League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)

National Council of La Raza  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce  
Business Roundtable